

flash!

News Edited by
Karen Chidster

by Megan Favazza

the
west gazette

THE VOICE OF HAZELWOOD WEST HIGH SCHOOL

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fall gazette staff. (FRONT) Features Editor Megan Favazza, Stephanie Clarkin, Georgette Gadberry, Circulation Editor Kim Hulett, Sports Editor Angie Bendyk, News Editor Karen Chidster, (BACK) Bridget Madigan, Assistant Editor Cheryl Deatherage, Opinions Editor Greg Wroblewski, photographer Bo Norris photographer Mike Erickson, Tom Kraichely photographer Jason Myers. (Not pictured, Managing Editor Jim Crowley and Katie Anderson) (Photo by Tony Wolk)

Thespians Direct One-Act Performances in Studio 13

by Georgette Gadberry

The lights fade signaling the actors to prepare themselves backstage. Each student director runs around nervously to make sure everything is ready. They hope that their hard work, including that of the actors and tech, will show through as the One-Acts begin.

The Student Directed One-Acts are being directed by seniors Doug Reside, Heidi Seymour, Dan Pingel, and Casey Henrichs. They will be performed February 5 through 8 in Studio 13. Although there are four one-acts, only three will be shown each night.

Senior Doug Reside, assisted by senior Tony Wolk, is directing "The Dying Detective," a fast moving Sherlock Holmes mystery. Senior Matt Anderson plays the part of the famous detective.

"I've always wanted to direct a Sherlock Holmes play," said Doug, "and this one could be easily adapted to our playing space."

Student director senior Heidi Seymour, assisted by junior Clayton Robbins, wanted to unnerve the audience with a scary play called "Heat Lightning." Her cast includes junior Megan Favazza, junior Chris Burney, and senior Jerry Vallyley.

"Megan is a really mature actress," said Heidi. "Chris is really good at being scary—always—and Jerry is a really good fresh face."

Senior Dan Pingel said, "There's so many weird things in my play, so it'll be entertaining." He is being assisted by senior Susan Gilbert.



Culture Awareness Society (CAS) will be having daily quotes and facts of history regarding African Americans during February, Black History Month. On February 23, the members of CAS are planning to attend the St. Louis Black Repertory Company to see "Tambourines to Glory" by Langston Hughes, and on February 25, the St. Louis Black Repertory Company will visit West for the second time to perform "I Too Sing America," a show based on the poem by Langston Hughes.

The Gospel Choir and Step Show will be presented after school on February 26.



With Graduation just around the corner, Project Graduation meetings were held every Tuesday in January. During the first meeting, the seniors talked about T-shirts and theme ideas, but they have not come to a decision yet. The activities that were decided on for Project Graduation include a casino, a velcro wall, sumo wrestling, and hypnotists.



Prom will be significantly different this year because it will be the first time in at least 15 years that West will not have it at

Pipefitters. The Holiday Inn at Westport will be the new site.

"It will look more like a ballroom instead of a cafeteria," said Junior Class officer Marisa Clogston.

"We feel in this modern era that Westport will be more enjoyable," said Prom committee chair Christie Masters.

Prom ticket sales will be one day only, Wednesday, April 9, only three weeks before Prom. Prom will be on April 25.

"The Junior Class officers wanted to be the class that changed Prom forever at Hazelwood West. We want to be known for that," said Christie.

Inaugural 'Close-up' Creates One-of-a-Kind Memories

by Close-up Students

Several of the students who went on the recent Close-up trip kept a diary of their experiences. Their comments tell of an exciting week in Washington, D.C.

Wed., Jan. 15... had to wake up at 3:15 a.m. to get to the airport. Roads were icy and so I was worried about our flight. The plane we were on was held together with scotch tape! The ceiling panels were falling and water was leaking in on some of us. We made it to Washington safely—how, I don't know. (Tiffany Whitaker)

Thurs., Jan. 16... our first day on the town in DC. We went to Capitol Hill to take a group picture of the Close-up members from our hotel. It was a panoramic picture, so me and Nick Weygandt stood on the far left and when the camera passed us up we ran behind the crowd to the far right so we would be in the picture twice. I guess they didn't approve of that, so in the final shot, they put a picture of Bill Clinton in place of where we were standing. (Jason Dennis)

Mandy Billington, Marisa Clogston, Cathie Degler, Jessica Smith, Jen Gannon and I all went into Saks and tried on \$3000 dresses. We took pictures of us posing. Marisa even put her dress on hold. The lady just looked at us. We also went into this designer's store. There were no customers but four atten-

dants. When we walked in there, this one guy dressed in complete black with long black hair just stared at us frowning. Someone said, "Wow, they have a lot colorful stuff." The guy said, "That is why we are the best. We're not afraid of color. This is Versace's store, not a Nieman Marcus." He was so serious. (Christie Masters)

Fri., Jan. 17... We got to go to a televised seminar with Janet Reno. We asked her questions about things like teen curfew and drugs. When she was explaining her view that the death penalty is for vengeance only, she said, "If someone killed my mother, to the point that I physically could, I would tear them apart." (Jon Hendrickson)

Saturday, Jan. 18... We went to see the Jefferson Memorial and Lincoln Memorial. There were a lot of neat little details of these memorials that not everybody knows about, like the misspelled words in engravings at the Lincoln Memorial and how his hands spell out his initials in sign language. The only really interesting thing about the Jefferson Memorial is that his statue is facing directly at the White House as if he was watching over it. (Jason Dennis)

Sunday, Jan. 19... Day two at the mall. We got to see the Smithsonian Museums and Whoopi Goldberg. (Jason Schrick) (The Close-up diary is continued on the special Gazette insert, inside.)

Activities Secretary Retires After 20-Year West Connection

by Bridget Madigan

Everyone knows that cheerful secretary who sits in front of Mr. Coffel's office. After working 24 years for the Hazelwood School District, 20 of those at West, Mrs. Rose Coyne is taking an early retirement because her husband is retiring the same day.

Activities director Mr. Dennis Coffel said that it is going to be very difficult to replace Mrs. Coyne because she is very efficient and conscientious.

"Her pleasant personality is the key to keeping things running smoothly," said Mr. Coffel.

At the fall sports banquet he stood up to say a few words about Mrs. Coyne and

he found himself choking up.

Mrs. Coyne is always glad to offer a warm smile and a helping hand to anyone. "Mrs. Coyne supported me when I applied for my job," said switchboard operator Mrs. Kathleen Hinton. "I will miss her dearly."

Ever since they opened the doors of this school there has been a member of Mrs. Coyne's family here at West. After she retires that will no longer be the case.

"I really love my job because every year is a memorable one," said Mrs. Coyne.

Her plans are to travel and spend lots of quality time with her husband and grandchildren. She plans to come back and visit regularly. Her replacement is Mrs. Carolyn Hayes.



behind the desk. Mrs. Rose Coyne keeps track of the official school calendar of events. Photo by Mike Erickson

opinions

In Shock

West Gazette, January 31, 1997
Edited by Greg Wroblewski

Bands... Have Some Of Them Gone Too Far?

by Jason Myers and Greg Wroblewski

Back in the 1980s, bands like KISS, Twisted Sister, and Alice Cooper got strong reactions because of their strange behavior and appearance. Now bands like Marilyn Manson, Nine Inch Nails, GWAR, and White Zombie, to name a few, are stirring up the same emotions.

"I don't like Marilyn Manson," says junior Dara Smith. "All these bands are a little too weird."

On the other hand, Manson, who has been voted Best New Artist by Rolling Stone Magazine readers, is a new favorite with shock rock fans, like freshman David Jay, who says, "He's messed up but cool."

There are several reasons that some people are offended by Manson. He wears outrageous white face paint, black eye makeup, black lipstick, and generally tries to look dead. He wears contacts to make one eye white and the other blue and to make the irises different sizes. His clothing is usually in shreds or is very revealing.

Probably the thing that disturbs most people about Manson is his bizarre stage behavior. He hits himself in the head with microphones, screams, and has the crowd

spit on him. In the past he has been arrested for onstage nudity and obscene acts.

Manson talks about being the antichrist. He has also said it is his place to bring about the apocalypse, or end of the world. His current CD, "Antichrist Superstar," talks about how the world will come to an end.

"I think they are weird devil worshippers," senior Jill Schmitt says about Manson and his group. This may be the charge that bothers more people than Manson's strange clothes or makeup.

Many people feel his weird behavior is the result of being abused as a child. Senior Jay Kiser said, "I think he may have been beaten."

Although this may be the case with some shock rockers, it is not, according to Manson himself. In a Rolling Stone interview, he said, "My parents were always allowing me to do whatever I wanted."

In the same interview he tells stories about trying to get kicked out of Catholic school because he hated it so much. He also states that a burglar tried to suffocate him when he was a child.

"I don't like Marilyn Manson because I think his music is one big act," says Brent

Mannebach. "I'd like the group if they took a few minutes to come up with their own music instead of stealing from past bands."

The music is the reason many other students are Manson fans.

People who are fans appreciate the fact that he is different. "There need to be more artists like him who stand up for what they feel," says freshman Larry Bratcher.

the westgazette staff

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The Smoke Clears Along With Prop. 205

by Tom Kraichely

In case you haven't heard yet, as of January 1 this year, marijuana became legal for medicinal uses in California and Arizona under Proposition 215. Though voters passed the proposition by a considerable margin, it's more or less a practice trial for the whole country.

Since the crackdown on drugs in the 1930s, federal law has made the use and possession of marijuana illegal to this day. But the new state laws in California and Arizona contradict the federal law and allow citizens to use marijuana for ailments ranging from headcolds to AIDS.

The truly controversial point in this law is that it is so loosely written. If you live in those states, all you need is a doctor's "recommendation," to use marijuana legally. You don't have to have a written prescription to obtain the medical marijuana.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that many of these states' citizens will become sick and need to use the "new" legalized drug.

As for the real medicinal use of marijuana, it has been shown to help relieve the pain of such illnesses as AIDS, cancer, anorexia, glaucoma, arthritis, and migraines. Native Americans of the southwest have used marijuana for hundreds of years according to local historians. They use it to fight disease, relax their body, and know their inner selves.

Those who oppose these new laws mainly agree that marijuana does have some medicinal use, but they say it will likely lead to bigger problems. Their fear is not the other health risks marijuana contains, but rather its influence on day-to-day life in society.

Steve Dnistrian, senior vice president of the Partnership for a Drug Free America says, "Popular acceptance of the idea that marijuana is medicine could profoundly alter social norms, especially among young people."

The youth of America seems to be the focal point of many anti-marijuana activists. They believe that when kids see marijuana as a medicine, they will quickly forget the dangers attached. Psychologists say growing up using the drug will make these kids lazy and dependent.

After looking carefully at both sides of this issue, we lean in favor of the law. If people truly need the drug as medicine to help them and make them feel comfortable, they should not be denied that right. On the other hand, society will soon see the effects of this law on America's youth.

Since drug use has been on the rise since 1990, making marijuana legal will likely not decrease this statistic.

The law should be clearer and not allow for any loopholes. With this and proper education about the medicinal pros and cons of marijuana, this law could work.

It's Finally Friday...

Weekends Come Around, But What Is There To Do?

by Mike Erickson and Greg Wroblewski

You're sitting at home, it's Friday, and you have nothing to do. So you call some friends to find out if they want to do anything, but when you call, they're not home. You wonder where on earth they could be. Where are these people?

"On Friday's I go out with my friends and eat fish at Long John Silvers," said Mr. Tom Bennett.

Unlike Mr. Bennett, senior Mike Ritter goes to work, and if he is not working he usually calls someone at home or goes to their house.

Many people will come up with the same answer when they are asked how they spend their time on the weekends. "I work," and "I party," were the majority of the answers given to this question. There are some students and teachers though who don't spend their Saturdays and Sundays on a job.

"By Friday I am usually worn out from the week, but usually it is just dinner and a movie then to bed by 11," said social studies teacher Mr. John Stevenson.

"I can usually be found playing cards, losing all my money, with friends and enjoying refreshing beverages," said senior Jason Stevenson.

"Usually on Friday's I go with three friends to get refreshing beverages. Then I go home to take a nap and get ready to go out and see a band or just meet up with my friends," said Spanish teacher Ms. Ann Murphy.

Besides the people who enjoy to party there are others who enjoy enticing activi-

ties. "I spent 4 hours driving around Illinois with my friends, including a tour of East St. Louis," said senior Bob Sherron. "Finally, we stopped at a pool hall in Fairview Heights."

Senior David Grindon on the other hand shears sheep while listening to Superfreak habitually.

Whether it is hanging out with your friends or sitting at home alone, many people say there is really nothing to do in St. Louis unless you can get into the clubs, and that's still in the future for most students.



getting prepared. After a hard week, Ms. Ann Murphy prepares to head home for a night of excitement. Photo by Mike Erickson

Tough Exams Put Teachers At Top of Students' List

Fifty students were asked the question "Who is the hardest teacher you ever had and why?" They said that all these teachers gave hardest tests. These are ranked 1-10, 1 being the hardest teacher.

10. Mr. Dan Kiernan (Mathematics)
- 9 Mrs. Oleta Thomas (Science)
8. Ms. Mary Kebert (Science)
- 7 Mr. Robert Kemper (Social Studies)
6. Mr. Stan Horton (Social Studies)
5. Mrs. Mary Simpson

- (Mathematics)
4. Mrs. Sharon Brandt (Science)
3. Mr. Harry McCown (Social Studies)
2. Mr. Charles Owens (Mathematics)
- 1 Mr. Dean McGlasson (Mathematics)

One junior said, "I have Mr. McGlasson now for Advanced Algebra and he gives the class a lot of work and the tests are really challenging. Overall Mr. McGlasson is a really nice teacher though."

In my opinion, I was really disappointed that Mr. Harry McCown was not voted the hardest teacher.

Hidden Treasures Go Unseen by Students

by Stephanie Clarkin

With most classrooms you walk into, the first thing you notice is a big, bulky, desk in the middle of the room. Do you ever wonder what teachers keep in their desks, or do you just figure they keep "normal" things like pens and pencils?

Some teachers like to hold onto confiscated items. Spanish teacher Mrs. Denise Bova laughs when she says, "I still have super bouncy balls in my desk that I confiscated from my eighth grade students. I have been teaching high school for six years now."

Other teachers keep stuff in their desks for the good of their students. Spanish teacher Mrs. Connie Clay has hand cream for students who ask. Girls, if you have a runner in your pantyhose, Mrs. Clay is the woman to see. She has finger nail polish in her desk just for that reason. Mrs. Clay must have a really big desk because she also has a spanish flute, castanets, and morrocas in it..

"I have plenty of pencils for students," says Mrs. Clay "They have 'I love my

Teacher' on them so students won't steal them." Social Studies teacher and senior sponsor Mr. Tom Bennett keeps T-shirts and baseball gloves left over from Senior Activity Day until the students come to pick them up. Oh, and if you are missing light blue snow gloves, then go see Mr. Bennett. He does not know whose they are.

Mr. Burkhart's secretary, Mrs. Martha Anderson, has plastic bags just in case students throw up on the way to the nurse's office.

A couple of teachers keep items that are significant to them. English teacher Mr. Paul Dunivan has a halloween button that Mr. John Day's mom made for him in his desk. He also has an "Athletes vs. MS" button because he has been involved with the fight against multiple sclerosis for quite a while. Mr. McCown has pictures of his kids. He also has a police report on a former student who called up and threatened his babysitter.

Math teacher Mrs. Kathy Epperly is definitely prepared. She has a flashlight that is required for all math teachers. She also has three different types of screwdrivers, A Craftsman, a Phillips, and one for her calculator. Mrs. Epperly has Endust for electronics, a battery charger, direction books, graphing wires, and most importantly, tons of calculators.

Other teachers are prepared in case they



stashed away. Musical instruments and other surprising items fill the desk of Spanish teacher Mrs. Connie Clay *Photo by Mike Erickson*

have the munchies. Spanish teacher Ms. Ann Murphy had a bagel and cream cheese stashed away in her desk. Social studies teacher clerk Ms. Stephanie McOsken has Snackwells, Sweet Rewards, and teabags in her desk. Journalism teachers Mrs. Sue Smith and Mr. Jeff Kuchno have food not only in their desks but on their desks. These snacks include open bags of Air Crisps, Now and Laters, Little Debbie's, and chocolate licorice.

Remember, if you need any pencils, clear finger nail polish, screw drivers, or you are just dying of hunger, then smile and ask nicely. Just maybe a teacher will let you borrow something.

Coollest Cars Wait on Lot For Teachers

by Jim Crowley and Cheryl Deatherage

You spot it on the road, a nice looking Camaro, turning into the school parking lot. You think to yourself, "Who could possibly drive a car that cool here?" That is when Coach Mike Oostendorp steps out. Standing next to his shiny maroon 1996 Camaro Z28, he looks confident that he is driving the coolest car on the lot, and by our vote, he is.

A close second is Dr. Sarah Spalding, pulling up in her red 1996 BMW 328 sport coupe.

Following her down the hill, and placing third is a black 1995 Dodge Stealth driven by Coach Ken Archibald.

Journalism teacher Mrs. Sue Smith clocks in fourth with her cherry red 1995 Ford Mustang.

Next up in fifth place is Mr. Ronan's 1994 Dodge Ram truck, which by the way, he says he pays for by supervising detention.

The sixth place title goes to a sporty 1997 saturn coupe, owned by Special Education teacher Mrs. Susan Bauer.

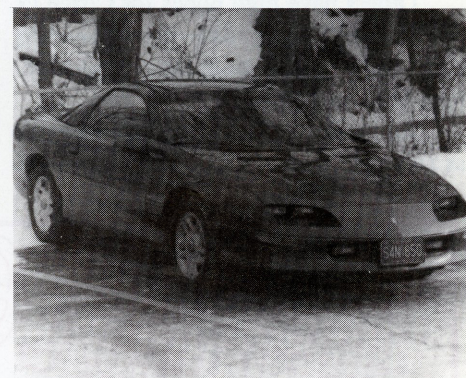
The seventh place ribbon is awarded to Coach Butch Beiter and his blue and gold 1993 Jeep Grand Cherokee.

Eighth place is given to Mrs. Maria LaPorta's little black Honda Civic Del Sol.

Senior Robert Kraatz takes ninth with the help of his purple 1995 Chevy S-10.

Tenth place is awarded to Jim Kristo and his 1987 Chevy Blazer.

Honorable mentions go to Cheryl Deatherage's 1993 purple Suzuki Sidekick and Ben Skurat's 1995 black Dodge Neon Sport Coupe.



hot wheels. Mr Mike Oostendorp drives the Camaro that many students admire each day on the West lot. *Photo by Mike Erickson*

YOUR LUCKY

stars!

by Kim Hulett

Aquarius (1/21-2/22) Your friend has been acting under the weather lately. Give them a little pick me up. Go out of your way. Lucky sign: Libra

Pisces (2/23-3/20) You can't just sit there and watch everything go on without you. Get yourself involved. Make it quick. Lucky sign: Leo

Aries (3/21-4/20) That special someone has been acting strange. Confront them and get to the point. Do not be fooled. Lucky sign: Scorpio

Taurus (4/21-5/21) If you don't speak out now, you're going to make things worse. First things first. Tell it your way. Lucky sign: Sagittarius

Gemini (5/22-6/21) You need to step out before a disaster strikes. It is all going to break out, and it won't be pretty. Lucky sign: Taurus

Cancer (6/22-7/23) The sun is definitely shining on you. Things are beginning to go your way. Wear a big smile. Lucky sign: Virgo

Leo (7/24-8/23) Stop while you are ahead. If you get in too deep, there's no turning back. Be alert. Lucky sign: Gemini

Virgo (8/24-9/23) Someone is going to tell you something you've been waiting for. So listen to every little detail. Lucky sign: Cancer

Libra (9/24-10/23) You have felt stressed lately, and you need to kick back and relax. Go to your special place and get some rest. Lucky sign: Capricorn

Scorpio (10/24-11/22) Your special someone isn't being reasonable. Don't give in to them though. Let them suffer for once. Lucky sign: Aquarius

Sagittarius (11/23-12/21) Don't give in to the winter blues. Try something new. Sign up for a class at your local community center. Lucky sign: Pisces

Capricorn (12/22-1/20) That thing that has kept you tied down for months is about to end. Enjoy your newfound freedom and avoid any new entanglements. Lucky sign: Aries

Students Run Class

by Katie Anderson

Could you imagine having a class without a teacher and doing your assignments and all of your homework by yourself? For the independent study students here, this dream is a reality.

Most students who are in independent study are taking a class a different hour than it is regularly offered so they can still take other electives.

This year there is a whole class of independent study students., Mrs. Jan Haas' Speech 2 class. With the departure of Mr. Richard Pisarkiewicz, the students were left without a teacher. The students in this class are seniors Georgette Gadberry, Casey Henrichs, George McCall, Doug Reside, and Heidi Seymour. They have their class in the computer lab and are under the supervision of the teacher or the teacher assistant in the room. The students report to Mrs. Haas weekly and get their new assignments

and projects. They are now making a movie for future debate clubs. The movie is their big semester project.

"We can focus on our needs because we have a smaller class," said Georgette.

Some students like senior Jodi Banocy have an independent study class by themselves. Jodi takes French 4 on independent study. She still has to follow all the course work of the French 4 class, she just does it on her own in the library.

"It is very challenging not having any other students," said Jodi. "You can't teach it to yourself unless you know it."

Now don't think you can just run down to your counselor and sign up for independent study. The independent study class must be okayed with the teacher, said counselor Mrs. Darlene Oliva. Although there are no written requirements for independent study, you must be a self motivated student and a hard worker.

If you could declare a national holiday, what would it be and how would you celebrate it?

Wildcats Say...



Photo by Jason Myers

National Skip School Day We deserve one day off for going to school every day

Sophomore Bobby Baley



Photo by Jason Myers

I would like Faculty and Student Paintball Activity Day, so the

Junior Rob Brannen

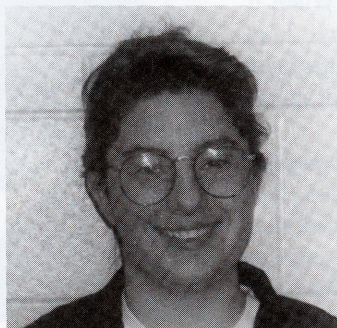


Photo by Jason Myers

Mickey's Birthday, everybody would have to wear Mickey Mouse ears.

Senior Jamie Stauffer



Photo by Jason Myers

National Read a Book Day, everyone would do nothing but read a book.

Mrs. Paula Badger

Is Pattonville Leaving for 'Good'?

by Angie Bendyk and Karen Chidister

As the Gazette went to press for its final fall issue, a decision had still not been made about Pattonville High School leaving the Suburban North Conference. If officials at Pattonville have their way, they will be playing in the Gateway Athletic Conference with schools like Francis Howell, Fort Zumwalt North and South, and both St. Charles high schools.

Although the vote was scheduled weeks ago, several circumstances have prevented a decision from being made.

At this point, according to activities director Mr. Dennis Coffel, the activities directors from all the SNC schools will vote on whether to allow the move. Then the superintendents from the various districts will have the final vote.

Mr. Coffel says that Pattonville wants to leave the conference because some of the schools in the conference don't have the re-

sources to field teams in all three levels of play—varsity, junior varsity, and freshman. All the schools in the SNC have talked about leaving the conference for other places, but so far nothing has been done about this.

Pattonville officials believe that by making this move, they will improve the level of competition for their student athletes.

With the GAC expanding, Mr. Coffel believes the move could be a mistake for the Pirates. The GAC will have two new high schools by 2000, and the St. Charles area is adding new players to each level every year. Pattonville is in an area that is losing population. If the planned airport expansion goes through, more people will have to move from the district.

If the Pirates do move, the sport that will be most affected will be football. Many West athletes believe Wildcat chances to make district playoffs in football would immediately improve. In fact, the 'Cats have

dropped nine regular season games to Pattonville out of the ten played in the last ten years.

West football coach Mr. Butch Beiter says that he would rather keep Pattonville in the conference so West could play them before they had to face them for districts.

Mr. Coffel adds that if Pattonville leaves, it would hurt competition in the SNC. "We lose the challenge," he added.

Assistant coach Mr. Paul Imbierowicz said, "There would be fewer teams to compete against for a conference title."

Senior Sessie Spencer is for the move, saying West would be going to the play-offs every year.

Senior James Massey disagrees. "It wouldn't make any difference," he said. "The only reason they beat us is that they've gotten a few good breaks."

Senior Mike Ritter said, "It'll probably make districts easier. It would set up a showdown between West and Pattonville."

Fresh Faces Hit St. Louis Sports

by Katie Anderson

The departure of Mike Keenan and the arrival of Joel Quenneville has warmed the hearts of many St. Louis Blues hockey fans.

The overall opinion of most is "he's a lot better than Keenan." Some people still aren't sure of Quenneville's performance though. Senior Andy Hamersen is one of those people.

"Though I haven't seen him perform much, I feel he has more attitude than Keenan," said Andy.

Others have high hopes for Coach Q. "Maybe he'll bring ideas from Colorado, such as the neutral zone trap," said freshman Tom Anderson.

Junior Renee Baker sees Quenneville as someone who can rebuild the team and

fix Keenan's mistakes. Then she thinks they need someone else to win the Stanley Cup.

Many students are just hopeful that the overall opinion of the Blues will improve and that will bring the fans back. In a recent Post-Dispatch interview, Quenneville said one of his goals is to get the Blues home record up.

No matter what he does, most fans just want the Blues to win. Junior Bob Madigan can sum up most people's feeling about the new coach. "I think he'll be good for the team."

Another new coach bombshell has hit St. Louis. The Rams' new coach, Dick Vermeil, has come out of retirement to coach the football team. In the early '80s, he led the Philadelphia Eagles to the Superbowl. Vermeil has a five year deal with the Rams.

After the firing of Rich Brooks, the Rams were desperate for a new coach. Some are still very skeptical about Vermeil being the coach and general manager. Mr. Ken Archibald thinks it will be hard to tell if the Rams have won a game because they will be carrying the new coach off the field all the time anyway, referring to Vermeil's age.

"I think it's stupid having someone who hasn't coached NFL football for ten years coaching our team," said senior Joel Blockman.

Even Vermeil's colleague John Madden thinks he will have trouble handling the business side of football. Still others are hopeful about the future of the Rams.

As senior Kurt Lett said, "We'll probably still do better than the Jets."

stats

CAT

wrestling

by Angie Bendyk

The varsity wrestling team is 2-5 so far this season. "We are not going for a team win," said Varsity Coach Mr. Jim Hardy. "We are more worried about individual achievements. Since we do not have people filling in all of the weights, we will not have enough points to get a team win." Junior varsity is currently 7-1 and the freshmen are undefeated.

girls basketball

by Jim Crowley

Getting off to a slow and rocky start, the Lady Hoopsters have only walked away with three wins against seven losses.

"We've got a lot of work to get where we should be," says varsity coach Mr. Daryl Hayes. "We need to pick up on our offense, and do a little bit of scoring."

"We make a lot of mistakes, but we are learning from them," says senior Jaime Compton.

Losing early in the season to Hazelwood East and Aquinas Mercy, the 'Cats came back to show them who's boss in their next round of play, defeating both teams.

"We're getting better every day," says Compton.

guys basketball

by Kim Hueltt

The Boys Varsity Basketball Team is 5-11. The team has many new players this season. Senior Devin Banks said that the team is adjusting to all the new players and that they are getting better every game.

swimming

by Jim Crowley

Thanks to the new young swimmers, this year's small squad is pulling a surprise attack on the competition this season. With the Aquacats' win over long time rival, Hazelwood Central for the first time in six years, the spotlight landed on freshman Casey Woodcock in the 100-yard backstroke and junior Jason Chambers in the 100-yard breaststroke. First year divers senior Kurt Lett and junior Bob Madigan are facing some of the toughest competition in the state but are still managing to bring in needed points for the team.

With only a few swimmers inching toward the state meet, there haven't been any qualifiers yet, but that's not going to hold these Cats back.

hockey

by Cheryl Deatherage

"The second half of the season is better," said senior Clayton Beine. "We've been passing better and playing as a team. The crowds are bigger and better this year."

The varsity team has brought their record to 3-9-2 and J.V. is now 3-6.

"For a first year team we're o k," said JV junior Gary Beatman.

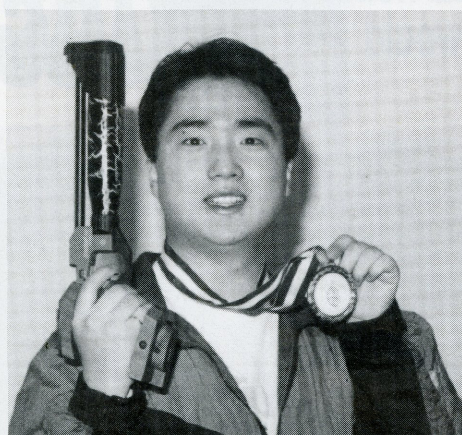
"We have a lot of young talented players that are still learning how to play the game," said senior Josh Polsky "When they mature fully, they will be able to compete with the top teams."

athlete of the issue

by Bridget Madigan

Have you ever realized that you could be sitting next to a future Olympian? When it comes to hobbies, senior Junyi Ji is unique. For the past two years he has been competing in the sport of air pistol shooting.

This is a sport in which the competitor stands and shoots one handed, at a bulls-eye whose center ring is 1 centimeter in diameter. The target is 10 meters or 33 feet away from the shooter. The competitor fires 60 shots, each worth a possible 10 points, over a time span of 100 minutes. Ji practices an average of 2-3 hours every day. His dedication to this sport has earned him the highest score in the junior category, where he has hit 511



points out of 600.

At the Jr. Olympic Shooting Championship in Streator, Illinois on January 11 he placed first, scoring 345 points out of 400. He will go on to compete at the Na-

tional Jr. Olympic Championship in April at the US shooting Center in Colorado Springs. If he finishes in the top four he will be a member of the US Jr. Olympic Air Pistol shooting team for one year.

Ji's talents also include karate. He is a third degree blackbelt in Okinawa Goju-Ryu. He began karate nine years ago in China to build his strength and to live healthier. Ji doesn't compete in this sport very often.

"I don't think martial arts is a way to hurt people or win trophies," said Ji. "It is a way I can stay in great shape."

Ji's future plans are to attend Ohio State University to continue air pistol shooting, while majoring in aviation. His hope is to make it to the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia.